

**CONFLICTS OF RAY CHARLES AS  
BLACK MUSICIAN IN AMERICAN SOCIETY TO  
CLAIM HIS DIGNITY AS PRESENTED IN TAYLOR  
HACKFORD'S "RAY" MOVIE**

Abi Baskara<sup>1</sup>  
Dra. Susilorini, M.A<sup>2</sup>

**ABSTRACT**

2014. Thesis. Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts. Sebelas Maret University.

The objective of this research is to describe what and how Ray Charles' conflicts as black musician in the American society in gaining his social dignity as presented in *Ray* movie. Movie as the products of technology and science is used as a means to understand American society from its history and culture. It is interesting to analyze *Ray* movie as biopic or biography movie that can be used to describe any situation to create the atmosphere of reality in the past based on Ray Charles' life.

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. The main source of the data is the movie titled *Ray* released in 2004 and directed by Taylor Hackford. There are two kinds of data; primary data and secondary data. The primary data are gathered from images, dialogues, and cinematographic elements from the movie. The secondary data are gathered from sources such as library books, internet articles, journals that are related with the movie especially Ray's internal and external conflicts, and also his achievement.

This research was done under American Studies framework, which studies and examines American Cultures. Therefore this research examines movie as a product of Art Culture. Hence, this research uses semiotic film theory to catch the meaning behind the sign or even the language in movie. Socio-culture and historical approach

is also used to get deeper understanding about African American society and past information of this movie.

After conducting this research, the writer concludes that *Ray* movie presents the way of Ray Charles erase his external and internal conflicts as his struggle to gain his social dignity as black musician in American society. Furthermore, this movie is used as portrait of the past that affect individual lives in past and also in present about African American story of life in America.

*Keyword:* movie, African American, conflict, dignity, black musician

---

<sup>1</sup> Mahasiswa Jurusan Sastra Inggris dengan NIM C1310001

<sup>2</sup> Dosen Pembimbing